

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /078 W
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P 192137Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7458
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 02567

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, UR, CA
SUBJECT: ARBATOV'S VISIT TO CANADA

REF: USNATO 4977

1. SUMMARY. VISIT OF ARBATOV WAS USEFUL FROM CANADIAN STANDPOINT, BUT IT WAS NOT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS, MAINLY BECAUSE ARBATOV IS NOT WELL-INFORMED ON CANADA AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS FAILED TO ENGAGE HIM IN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES COMMENT ON WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT SOVIET-CANADIAN RELATIONS AND PERSONAL REMARKS ABOUT ARBATOV BY THE CANADIAN DESK OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF SOVIET AFFAIRS, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM THROUGHOUT HIS TRAVELS IN CANADA. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET-CANADIAN RELATIONS: R. LYSYHYN, DIRECTOR OF SOVIET AFFAIRS IN DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GAVE US COPY OF MESSAGE TO CANADIAN PERMREP HARDY WHICH CONTAINS SAME TEXT AS IN REFTTEL, BUT WHICH ALSO INCLUDES FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SOVIET-CANADIAN RELATIONS:

BEGIN TEXT: "ONLY DISCUSSION ON BILATERAL RELATIONS
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TOOK PLACE WITH UNDER-SECRETARY GOTLIEB. LATTER SAID THAT PAST DECADE HAD BEEN POSITIVE ONE IN OUR RELATIONS, AND WE HAD ESTABLISHED FRAMEWORK WHICH WAS VERY USEFUL AND HAD, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIED US THROUGH RECENT PROBLEMS (I.E. EXPULSION OF 13 SOVIET OFFICIALS). THESE PROBLEMS WERE NOW BEHIND US AND WE LOOKED FORWARD TO ANOTHER POSITIVE DECADE. ARBATOV REPLIED THAT THERE WAS CON-

SIDERABLE DISCUSSION IN CANADIAN SECTION OF INSTITUTE OVER RECENT EVENTS IN CANADA. DEBATE CONCERNED WHETHER MOOD WHICH HAD BEEN CREATED WAS RESULT OF POLITICAL ACCIDENT OR INDICATION OF UNDERCURRENT IN POLITICAL TRENDS. THE DISCUSSION WAS STILL GOING ON.

"UNDER-SECRETARY GOTLIEB REPLIED THAT USSR SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT/NOT TO INTERPRET EVENTS IN WRONG WAY. IN HIS VIEW, POLITICAL TRENDS WERE POSITIVE AND THE MORE CONTACT WE HAD, THE LESS EFFECT DIFFICULT ELEMENTS WOULD HAVE. USSR SHOULD REALIZE THAT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WOULD NOT/NOT PRECLUDE CRITICISM; CRITICISM SHOULD NOT/NOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED. THERE WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF USA IN CANADA EVEN THOUGH CANADA AND USA HAD RELATIONSHIP THAT WAS PROBABLY UNIQUE IN THE WORLD. TO SOME EXTENT, CLOSE RELATIONS ACTUALLY FOSTERED CRITICISM. ARBATOV CONCLUDED DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC BY AGREEING THAT NATIONAL INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES SPOKE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS. SOVIET UNION PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED ROLE CANADA HAD PLAYED IN DETENTE BY BEING ONE OF FIRST TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH USSR.

"AT LUNCHEON, ARBATOV JOKED THAT CANADA HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN NAME OF HIS INSTITUTE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE REFUGE FOR HIMSELF IN CASE RELATIONS WITH USA WENT SOUR. THIS
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PAST YEAR HAD HOWEVER SHOWN THAT PROBLEMS COULD ARISE IN BOTH PLACES AT SAME TIME." END TEXT.

3. ASSESSMENT OF ARBATOV BY LYSYHYN: ARBATOV MET SEPARATELY WITH MINISTER JAMIESON, UNDER-SECRETARY GOTLIEB, AND DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY GOLDSHLAG. NONE OF THE CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS HAD MET ARBATOV PREVIOUSLY, AND THERE WAS MUCH FLOUNDERING AROUND BEFORE ANY OF THE DISCUSSIONS REACHED THE SUBSTANTIVE STAGE. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT ARBATOV WAS NOT PROPERLY BRIEFED ON CANADA IN MOSCOW. ON SUBJECTS ABOUT WHICH HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE, E.G. DISARMAMENT AND USA, HE IS ARTICULATE, BUT OTHERWISE HE TENDS TO RETREAT TO THE PARTY LINE, I.E. "WE CAN'T TELL THE CUBANS WHAT THEY SHOULD BE DOING IN AFRICA." GENERALLY, ARBATOV IS ASTUTE AND PERCEPTIVE, BUT HE IS SOMETIMES SLOW TO GRASP POINTS ABOUT TOPICS WITH WHICH HE IS NOT GENERALLY FAMILIAR.

4. COMMENTS BY ARBATOV ON THE U.S.: ARBATOV CLAIMED THAT HE FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY WHY THERE IS SUCH A LACK OF LEADERSHIP AND WHY THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN HAVING SUCH

GREAT DIFFICULTY WITH CONGRESS AS, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY. HE, ARBATOV, IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS MATTER IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. HE TOLD THE CANADIANS: "THERE IS SOMETHING FUNDAMENTAL THERE THAT I AM NOT GRASPING."

5. TRAVEL OUTSIDE OTTAWA: ARBATOV ALSO VISITED: CALGARY, WHERE HE DINED AND DISCUSSED CANADA'S CURRENT ECONOMIC ILLS WITH A GROUP OF OIL MEN; EDMONTON, WHERE HE MET THE ALBERTAN MINISTER OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND A GROUP OF ACADEMICS; YELLOWKNIFE (LARGELY A PROTOCOLAR STOP); AND MONTREAL, WHERE HE HAD LONG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 02567

DISCUSSION WITH CARL BEIGIE, HEAD OF C.D. HOWE INSTITUTE,
ABOUT THE WORLD ECONOMY. (PREVIOUSLY, HE HAD ATTENDED
THE PUGWASH MEETING IN TORONTO.)
ENDERS

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